

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02

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R 171005Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4457

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5459

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR

SUBJECT: CRITICAL YUGOSLAV PRESS REACTION TO NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE AWARD

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV PRESS HAS GIVEN MUTED BUT
UNFAVORABLE COVERAGE TO AWARD OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
TO SOVIET PHYSICIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ANDREI
SAKHAROV. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING BELGRADE DAILIES HAVE MADE NO EDITORIAL
COMMENT, BUT CARRIED REPORTS OF NEGATIVE REACTION IN
MOSCOW AND CRITICISM IN ITALIAN COMMUNIST AND SWEDISH
PRESS. INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WAS
BRIEF AND FACTUAL.

3. OCTOBER 14 ISSUE OF ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" CARRIES
CRITICAL EDITORIAL BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR,
ZELKJO BRIHTA. DESCRIBING NOBEL COMMITTEE AS "AN
ELEPHANT IN A CHINA SHOP", BRIHTA CONDEMNS AWARD
FOR ENDANGERING RATHER THAN FURTHERING DETENTE-AN
EDIFICE WHICH HE SEES AS RICKETY, BUT STILL WORTH-
WHILE. HE SUGGESTS FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, HOST
OF CSCE (AND FRIEND OF TITO), AS MORE SUITABLE
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RECIPIENT.

4. VIEWING SAKHAROV AS ANTI-COMMUNIST RATHER THAN PRO-PEACE SYMBOL, BRIHTA WRITES "THE NOBEL PRIZE BESTOWED ON SAKHAROV AGAIN PROVES ONLY . . . HOW STRONG IS RESISTANCE TO UNDERSTANDING, HOW MUCH THE COLD WAR STILL EXISTS IN THE COLD PEACE, HOW MUCH ANTI-COMMUNISM STILL EXISTS IN POLITICS."

5. BRIHTA RIDICULES NOTION THAT AWARD MIGHT ENCOURAGE INTERNAL CHANGE IN USSR: "PERHAPS SOMEONE HAS REALLY THOUGHT THAT A COUNTRY COULD 'CHANGE INTERNALLY' WHEN IT IS PROVOKED AND MADE A FOOL OF FROM OUTSIDE."
SILBERMAN

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NNN

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TAGS: PFOR, YO, UR, (SAKHAROV, ANDREI)
To: STATE
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